Railway singalling system

*30. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing railway signalling system is ineffective for smooth running of trains during the dense foggy days;

(b) if so, whether any critical review of the existing signalling system has been made for installation of a system by which trains can be operated in foggy weather when visibility is poor; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing signalling system has severe limitations during foggy weather. However, instructions exist for train passing staff for steps to be taken during foggy weather to warn the driver about approach of a signal. Installation of modern signalling system is under consideration, for safer and speedier movement of trains under all conditions including foggy weather.

(c) A pilot project of a Radio-based Automatic Warning System (European Train Control System - ETCS) is proposed on Mathura-Palwal section of Central Railway. Depending on its success, induction of the system would be considered on Indian Railways subject to availability of funds. This system can take care of adverse visibility condition amongst other features.

Environmental hazards of industrialisation in Talcher-Angul Region

*31. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that environmental hazards in the Talcher-Angul region of Orissa are a serious cause of concern;

(b) whether Government have studied the impact of industrialization on environment in that region;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the measures taken to control environmental crisis in the region during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Talcher-Angul region of Orissa has been identified as one of the 24 environmental problem areas in the country.

(b) to (d) Brief details of steps taken to mitigate the environmental impacts and to control environmental degradation in the area are given in the Statement below.

Statement

Steps taken to mitigate the environmental impacts and to control environmental degradation in Talcher-Angul region of Orissa.

1. The Talcher-Angul region was studied in-depth and an environmental action plan prepared in 1990. This included implementation of specific pollution control measures by various industries located in the region such as National Aluminium Company Limited, National Thermal Power Corporation and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.
2. The pollution control status of the area was reviewed by Central Pollution Control Board in 1995. Further, the environmental status was studied by Central Pollution Control Board through Orissa State Pollution Control Board and a status report was prepared in 2000. The study has *inter-alia* indicated that the water quality of Brahamani river as well as the ambient air quality in the region have improved.
3. Various measures have been taken to mitigate the environmental hazards of industrialization including mandatory environmental clearance under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, environmental monitoring of the industries and implementation of unit-wise pollution control schemes such as 100% recycling of the ash pond over flow and augmentation of Electrostatic Precipitators in the Thermal Power plants, installation of waste water treatment facilities in the coal mines and provision of drinking water facilities to the affected villages.

Appointment of Hindi Teachers in Assam

*32. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN ESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and released to the Assam Government by the